

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 MC-02

EB-07 OMB-01 /074 W

----- 014597

R 231730Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2132

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 0274

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PINT, NATO, DA

SUBJ: EXTENSION OF DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN OF FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE INTENDS PUSH AHEAD QUICKLY TO CONCLUDE A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO AVOID A MESSY SITUATION WHICH COULD RESULT IN THE DISMISSAL OF THE PRESENT DEFENSE MINISTER. END SUMMARY.

1. ARNE CHRISTIANSEN (LIBERAL, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEFENSE COMMITTEE OF THE FOLKETING, TOLD DCM LAST NIGHT AT DINNER GIVEN FOR SCALANT BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE MOLLER THAT CHRISTIANSEN PLANNED TO HOLD HEARINGS EARLY IN FEBRUARY ON THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT. CHRISTIANSEN SAID IT WAS IMPORTANT TO MOVE QUICKLY AT THIS TIME WHEN MOST SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND LIBERALS WERE IN FAVOR OF AN EXTENSION ALONG THE LINES OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN THE DANISH ARMED FORCES AND INSULATE THE DEFENSE BUDGET FROM THE INFLATIONARY CYCLE.

2. CHRISTIANSEN ADDED THAT DEFMIN MOLLER WAS IN TROUBLE WITH THE PRIMIN AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY BECAUSE OF THE CHRISTIANA SITUATION. (THIS IS IN REFERENCE TO A RADICAL SOCIAL EXPERIMENT WHICH HAS CAUSED A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION IN
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PRESS AND PARLIAMENT LATELY.) WITH THE LEFTIST INTELLECTUALS IN FAVOR OF KEEPING IT AND ALL OF THE CONSERVATIVES, AND MANY

OF THE MODERATES, IN THE COUNTRY IN FAVOR OF ABOLISHING IT, A VOTE COULD COME TO PASS WHICH WOULD EITHER SPLIT THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WIDE OPEN, CAUSING THE GOVT. TO RESIGN, OR AT LEAST CAUSE MOLLER TO BE FIRED AS THE SCAPEGOAT. THIS CRISIS COULD OCCUR IN LATE MARCH SINCE THE DATE FOR THE EVICTION OF CITIZENS FROM CHRISTIANA IS APRIL 1.

3. IN ADDITION TO THIS PROBLEM. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT DEFMIN MOLLER IS IN TROUBLE WITH THE GOVT FOR HIS UNUSUAL MARITAL SITUATION. (HE IS LIVING WITH MRS. WINNIE RUSSEL, A SOCIAL DEMOCRAT MP, WHO IS STILL MARRIED TO AN AMERICAN SINGER, AND NEITHER MOLLER NOR RUSSEL HAS GOTTEN DIVORCED. DANES ARE USUALLY LIBERAL THINKERS IN THESE MATTERS, BUT THIS IS A BIT MUCH FOR DANES TO SWALLOW, SINCE MOLLER IS ALSO A LUTHERAN MINISTER.)

4. CHRISTIANSEN SAID THAT HE AND DEFMIN MOLLER WERE ON THE SAME TRACK INSOFAR AS THE NEED FOR A NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT WAS CONCERNED. THEY AGREED COMPLETELY ON THE PRINCIPLE OF THE NEW AGREEMENT AND CHRISTIANSEN FELT THAT IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT COULD BE PUSHED THROUGH THE FOLKETING QUICKLY, (IN ADVANCE OF THE CHRISTIANA CRISIS), AT LEAST 2/3 OF THE FOLKETING WOULD BACK IT. HE SAID THAT ON THE OTHER HAND IF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE AGREEMENT WERE ALLOWED TO LAG, MOLLER MIGHT HAVE TO RESIGN AND HE WOULD PROBABLY BE REPLACED BY KJELD OLESEN. CHRISTIANSEN (RIGHTLY) CHARACTERIZED OLESEN, A FORMER DEFENSE MINISTER AND SDP NUMBER TWO, AS AN AMBITIOUS OPPORTUNIST WHO WILL BE LESS MOTIVATED BY CONVICTION THAN MOLLER. OLESEN, CONSEQUENTLY, WOULD BE MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO PRESSURES WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES.

5. FOR THIS REASON CHRISTIANSEN SAID HE WAS SCHEDULING MEETINGS ON THE AGREEMENT IN THE FOLKETING BEGINNING FEBRUARY 4 AND HOPED TO COMPLETE THEM WITHIN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, LEADING TO A FINAL AND SUCCESSFUL VOTE ON IT IN MARCH.

6. COMMENT: CHRISTIANSEN'S PREDICTIONS OF A SPLIT IN
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THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH COULD LEAD TO A FALL OF THE GOVT ARE PERHAPS EXAGGERATED. ON THE OTHER HAND HIS ARGUMENT THAT CHRISTIANA AND/OR HIS MARITAL STATUS COULD LEAD TO MOLLER'S DISMISSAL SEEM WELL-FOUNDED. WE HOPE THAT FOR THIS REASON CHRISTIANSEN WILL BE ABLE TO PUSH THE NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE FOLKETING QUICKLY. A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY OF THE FOLKETING IS IN FAVOR OF A RENEWED DEFENSE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD FOLLOW CLOSELY ALONG THE LINES OF THE PRESENT ONE AND PERHAPS WOULD EVEN BE AN IMPROVEMENT. AS CHRISTIANSEN NOTES, IT WOULD BE MOST

UNFORTUNATE IF A RED HERRING SUCH AS THE CHRISTIANA SITUATION
WERE TO RETARD PROGRESS ON THE DEFENSE AGREEMENT. MOLLER
HAS BEEN A FAST FRIEND OF THE US AND HIS DEPARTURE WOULD
NOT BE IN OUR INTERESTS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, MILITARY BUDGET, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MILITARY AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976COPENH00274
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760028-0418
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760129/aaaaayyc.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXTENSION OF DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN OF FOLKETING DEFENSE COMMITTEE
TAGS: MARR, PINT, DA, US, NATO, (CHRISTIANSSEN, ARNE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006